

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01243 052115Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----001631 052123Z /65

O 052056Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0471
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01243

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PCAT, UNSC, IS, XF
SUBJECT: FRENCH DENIAL OF ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: USUN 838, STATE 85965, TEL AVIV 4551

1. FRENCH PERM REP LEPRETTE OVER THE WEEKEND DISCUSSED WITH AMB. LEONARD MATTER OF REPORTS ALLEGING THAT FRENCH ARMS WERE CONTINUING TO FLOW TO SOUTH AFRICA (USUN 838). LEPRETTE SAID DURING HIS TRIP TO PARIS LAST MONTH HE TOOK UP THIS REPORT WITH FM DE GUIRINGAUD. FOREIGN MINISTER ASSURED LEPRETTE THAT THESE REPORTS WERE ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE. THE ASSERTION THAT ANY WEAPONS WERE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM FRANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA WAS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED. LEPRETTE ADDED THAT HE RECOMMENDED GOF MAKE CLEAR TO ISRAELIS THAT FRENCH RESPONSE TO SC RES 418 MEANT TOTAL CUTOFF OF ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

2. LEONARD CONCURRED AND URGED THAT FRENCH SPECIFICALLY SPELL OUT THAT THE FRENCH INTERPRETATION OF RES 418
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DOES NOT PERMIT THE DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT IN EXISTING CONTRACTS. FRANCE WOULD THUS MAKE EMPHATICALLY CLEAR THAT ABSOLUTELY NO FRENCH ARMS ARE MOVING TO SOUTH AFRICA. LEPRETTE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF USG COULD PROVIDE ANY SPECIFICS RELATING TO SOUTH AFRICAN ALLEGATIONS THAT THEY ARE CONTINUING TO RECEIVE FRENCH WEAPONS. LEONARD DOUBTED THAT WE HAD ANY SUCH SPECIFICS

BUT SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE REQUEST.

3. SINCE THE ABOVE EXCHANGE WITH LEPRETTE THE ISRAELI MISSION SENT A NOTE VERBALE (APRIL 3) TO SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM CONVEYING THAT, FURTHER TO ITS NOTE OF DECEMBER 7, 1977, THE ACTING PERM REP IS AUTHORIZED TO STATE "THAT ISRAEL WILL COMPLY WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 418 (1977)." AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, THE DECEMBER 7 NOTE STATED THAT "ISRAEL WILL BE GUIDED BY SC RESOLUTION 418 (1977) ETC.". LATEST NOTE HAS BEEN CIRCULATED AS SC DOCUMENT, AS ADDENDUM TO DOCUMENT CONTAINING DECEMBER NOTE.

4. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THIS NEW NOTE STATING ISRAEL WILL COMPLY WITH RES 418, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH EMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SEEK FURTHER INTERPRETATION OF ISRAELI POLICY. LEONARD

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